Modernisation of railway stations in Tamil Nadu

2062. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Southern Railway has taken any steps to modernize various railway stations in the State of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and including targets for the last three years and the achievements made thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are 31 stations over Southern Railway that have been declared as Model Stations out of which 17 stations fall in the State of Tamil Nadu.

Out of the 17 stations, 7 stations were provided with upgraded level of amenities as required for model stations upto 31.3.2005. These stations are Chennai Central, Chennai Egmore, Coimbatore, Erode Jn., Madurai, Salem Jn. and Tiruchchirappalli.

Further 4 stations viz. Chennai Beach, Katpadi, Mambalam and Tirunelveli have been provided with upgraded level of amenities required for model stations during the current year 2005-06.

The work of providing amenities to the level of model stations at the balance 6 stations has been taken in hand.

High Speed Trains

2063. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have long term plan to launch high-speed trains on major national routes to thwart competition from low-fare airlines;

(b) if so, the details and status of implementation thereof,

(c) whether work is in progress on other major railway tracks for introduction of high-speed trains running at 150 km per hour, after launch of such trains on Delhi-Agra routes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, route-wise?